Message Text

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R 091535Z AUG 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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SAO PAULO FOR COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BR

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS DUTIES PAYMENTS BY BRAZILIAN CONSULATE IN LOS ANGELES REF: BRASILIA 6218; SAO PAULO 1953

- 1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE JEAN WEST-PHAL AND REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE, COMMERCE, CUSTOMS AND THE U.S. TRAVEL SERVICE MET WITH BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. PINHEIRO ON AUGUST 3 TO DISCUSS CUSTOMS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY THE BRAZILIAN TRADE CENTER IN LOS ANGELES.
- 2. AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO OBJECTED TO WHAT HIS GOVERNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT CONSIDERED UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF THE LOS ANGELES CENTER BY CUSTOMS IN CONTRAST TO THE BRAZILIAN TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK, WHICH HE SAID HAD NEVER HAD TROUBLE WITH DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF EXHIBITION SAMPLES. IN THE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE LOS ANGELES CENTER WAS ASKING FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR THREE SEPERATE USES; (A) EXHIBITION SAMPLES FOR USE AT

BRAZILIAN BOOTHS IN PRIVATELY ORGANIZED TRADE FAIRS;
(B) EXHIBITION SAMPLES FOR SMALL SHOWS IN THE
BRAZILIAN TRADE CENTER, AND (C) SAMPLES AND DISPLAYS
FOR PERMANENT OR LONG-TERM SHOWING IN THE TRADE CENTER.

- 3. SECRETARY WESTPHAL AND THE OTHER U.S. PARTICIPANTS PROPOSED TO AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO A SOLUTION TO THE LOS ANGELES CENTER'S PROBLEMS BASED ON THE U.S. TRADE FAIR ACT OF 1959. THE PROPOSAL WAS THAT (A) THE BRAZILIAN TRADE CENTER STAFF MUST BE CERTAIN THAT THE ORGANIZERS OF PRIVATE FAIRS HAVE OBTAINED CERTIFICATION FOR DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES BY THE TRAVEL SERVICE;(B) FAIRS HELD IN THE TRADE CENTER MAY BE GIVEN DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES BY BEING CERTIFIED INDIVIDUALLY BY THE TRAVEL SERVICE OR BY A BLANKET APPROVAL OF THE TRADE CENTER'S SCHEDULE ONCE A YEAR, AND (C) PERMANENT AND LONG-TERM DISPLAY ITEMS MAY ENTER DUTY-FREE UNDER DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AS PART OF THE BRAZILIAN CONSULATE GENERAL.
- 4. AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO ACCEPTED THE U.S. PROPOSAL AND WILL ADVISE THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE BRAZILIAN TRADE CENTERS IN THE U.S. AS TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1959. HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE U.S. CONDITIONS FOR DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES WERE NOT IN VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY WHEN COMPARED TO BRAZILIAN REQUIRELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTS FOR THE U.S. TRADE CENTER IN SAO PAULO.

5. THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY HAS APPLIED TO THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS FOR A REFUND FOR DUTIES PAID ON BRAZILIAN SAMPLES FOR THE FEBRUARY FASHION FAIR AND MARCH HOUSEWARES SHOW. THE EMBASSY ADVISED US SUBSEQUENT TO THE AUGUST 3 MEETING THAT IT HAD LEARNED FROM LOS ANGELES THAT THE GOODS HAD NOT BEEN SOLD AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE FAIRS. CUSTOMS WILL MAKE A RULING ON THE REFUND APPLICATION ASAP.

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